

## Commander's Connection



Photo by Airman 1st Class Susan Penning

**Col. Sam Angelella takes a break with his children, son, Tony, (left) and daughter, Mia, (center) following the "5k in the 5k" race Saturday. The day featured events for adults and children.**

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Sam Angelella, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community. Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to [commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil](mailto:commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil).

Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in *The Shaw Spirit*.

**Q** I was wondering why the base does not get a microchip scanner so 20th Security Forces Squadron could scan stray pets and send them home. Also, if everybody would have his pet microchipped, the pets could get home quickly and safely.

**A** A scanner is in use at Shaw's Veterinary Treatment Facility. Many pets are either not registered at the VTF or not microchipped. In accordance with Shaw Instruction 48-102, *Control of Animals on Shaw*, all animals on base must be registered at the VTF within five working days of arriving at Shaw. Registration includes vaccinations and a tag to be worn on the animal's collar. If pets are properly registered on base with at least a registration tag on the collar, SFS could easily locate the owner with a phone call. The VTF charges \$15 to microchip a pet and \$1.25 for an information tag. We appreciate your concern.

## Airmen in the midst of history

By Capt. Trevor Gersten  
20th Operations Support Squadron

As the Air Force celebrates its 56th birthday this week, we should pause and reflect on our service's history and accomplishments. It is all too easy to get caught up in the constant cycle of TDYs, deployments and home station duties and forget just how extraordinary the U.S. Air Force appears when viewed through the eyes of history. Like flipping through a family album, looking back at where the Air Force has been and the people who served before us can provide unique insight into our current mission and give us a sense of pride in the organization we've all chosen to be a member of.

Military historians often focus on the Air Force's technical accomplishments and victories in battle, and with good reason. Within a month of the formation of the U.S. Air Force in 1947, Capt. Chuck Yeager was breaking the sound barrier in his Bell X-1 and the technological advances continued from there. A few short decades later, the Air Force was operating in the skies over Korea and Vietnam, demonstrating once again the value of air power as an essential element of any successful military campaign.

Many of us on active duty today can only gain insight into these events through history books and from the ever-thinning ranks of living warriors. But realize, the Air Force we are in today is leaving its own mark on history through recent operations such as ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM, NOBLE EAGLE and IRAQI FREEDOM. We tend to think of air power as the ability to seek, strike and destroy military targets in war, but it

encompasses much more than that.

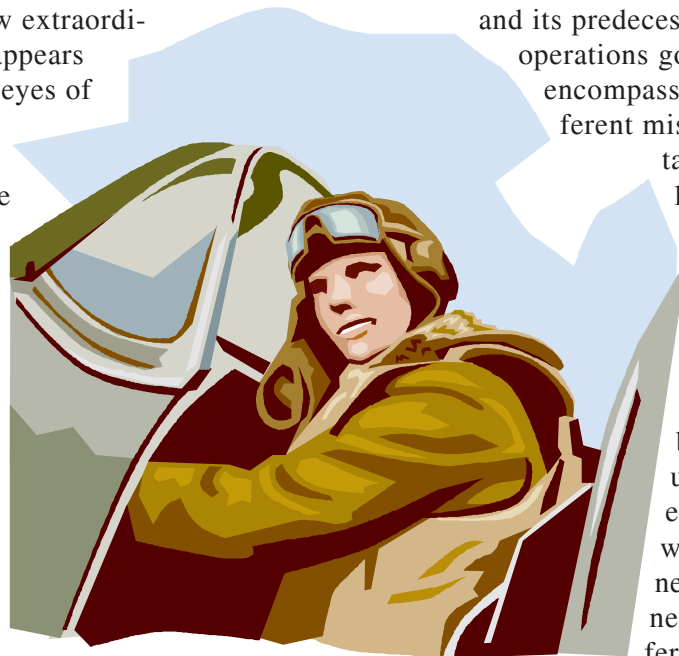
The Air Force has always been actively involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the globe. The tradition of excellence in these missions set by the Army Air Corps during the Berlin Airlift was continued in places like Somalia, Haiti, Iraq and the Balkans. In fact, between the U.S. Air Force

and its predecessors, these types of operations go back 80 years and encompass more than 800 different missions. Our humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts have saved countless lives from natural disasters, political instability and ethnic strife.

Although the business of war is ugly, we make every effort to strike only when it is absolutely necessary and avoid needless human suffering. As the most

technologically advanced air force in the world, we have employed technological breakthroughs not only to strike targets with incredible power and precision but, at the same time, to minimize the effects on non-combatants. Our planners use the best available intelligence before bringing air power to bear ensuring the legitimacy of enemy targets. And we don't stop there. The area around the target is examined. Weapons selections minimize collateral damage. In past and future conflicts, we would be fortunate if our enemies were as responsible and compassionate with their application of military power as the U.S. Air Force.

The Air Force tradition of excellence in all we do has always involved more than just defeating our enemies. On the occasion of the Air Force's birthday, we should be proud of our history and even prouder of the role each of us continues to play in this outstanding service.



## The Shaw Spirit

### Shaw Air Force Base editorial staff

Col. Sam Angelella.....20th Fighter Wing commander

Maj. Lisa Caldwell.....Public Affairs chief

Staff Sgt. Stacy Simon .....Internal Information chief  
[stacy.simon@shaw.af.mil](mailto:stacy.simon@shaw.af.mil)

Staff Sgt. Lee Watts.....Editor  
[spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil](mailto:spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil)

Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash.....Staff writer  
[alicia.prakash@shaw.af.mil](mailto:alicia.prakash@shaw.af.mil)

Airman 1st Class Susan Penning.....Staff writer  
[penning.susan@shaw.af.mil](mailto:penning.susan@shaw.af.mil)

Adriene Dicks.....Correspondent  
[adriene.dicks@shaw.af.mil](mailto:adriene.dicks@shaw.af.mil)

Information intended for the *The Shaw Spirit* must be submitted Thursday the week prior of intended publication. Direct e-mail correspondence to [spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil](mailto:spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil) or mail to:  
20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office  
517 Lance Ave., Suite 107  
Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. 29152-5041

*The Shaw Spirit* is published by the Camden Media Co., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 20th Fighter Wing.

This civilian enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

Contents of *The Shaw Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by DoD, the Air Force or the Camden Media Co., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The 20th Fighter Wing commander and public affairs office are the determining authority as to whether a particular item will appear and its placement within the paper.

All copy submitted will be edited to conform to Air Force and local policy and style standards. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

Direct classified ads to Camden Media Co. at (800) 450-1437 or fax (803) 432-7609 or e-mail [skaress@ci-camden.com](mailto:skaress@ci-camden.com). All are run on a space-available basis.

Classified ads may also be or dropped off at *The Shaw Spirit* office in Bldg. 1122.

## Remains remind traveler of sacrifices

**By 2nd Lt. Billy Jeffords**  
*20th Fighter Wing Manpower Office*

In light of the anniversary of September 11th, I initially felt a responsibility to write this article and mention the acts of terrorism against our great nation. However, I was struck by something I witnessed that not only reminded me of the sacrifice of service but also of the ongoing actions of our brothers and sisters in all branches of the American Armed Forces.

I recently took advantage of the "space available" benefit to return to Europe for a brief visit with relatives. On the return flight from Ramstein, Germany, to Dover, Del., the Air Mobility Command representative at the terminal began his briefing to the passengers by stating "I am required to inform you there are human remains on the aircraft. Anyone who wishes to remove themselves from the manifest should return to the Passenger Service Section." There was no mention of who the deceased were or where they came from.

The C-17 originated in Baghdad, Iraq, and was destined for McChord Air Force Base, Wash. When we boarded and were seated, the loadmaster came over the PA system and gave the preflight briefing, followed by a long pause. As she began to speak again, her voice cracked a bit and she said, "The silver boxes in the front of the craft and under the American flag are the remains of servicemembers who were killed in Iraq. Our flight may have cargo and you passengers on board, but our mission is to return these fallen soldiers home." The caskets were nondescript, with only a few tags and stickers on the top, stencils with the word "HEAD" towards the cockpit. I regarded the caskets from 40 feet away and thought about the possible scenarios surrounding their deaths, who was waiting for these caskets at home, what branch of service they belonged to and a dozen other fleeting thoughts as the plane taxied to the runway. I fell asleep shortly thereafter and remember wondering if I knew the deceased.

When the aircraft arrived at Dover, the standard announcements filled the body of the aircraft and

the flight crew busied themselves in preparation for the ground crew arrival. As I stood up for the first time in nine hours, I witnessed the draping of the American flag over the caskets by two very somber members of the crew. Their faces were slightly distorted with emotion as they prepared the remains to be received in our homeland. They were wearing dirty flight suits, not immaculate service or ceremonial dress, as they performed the actions with respect and professionalism. Every passenger had to file past the caskets as we exited, and I was struck by the visible emotion every person expressed.

The addition of the flag magnified the presence of the coffins in the drab and metallic interior of the aircraft, standing out against the silver and black cold floor that so many of us had just slept on. Elastic bands were placed around the corners of the caskets to hold the flag in place, perfectly folded at the ends, perfectly covering the boxes that had blended into the surroundings during the course of the flight.

We are separated from many things while assigned to the United States, and there is the tendency to forget there are other regions and conflicts in which the U.S. military plays a role. Naturally, we support the efforts of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM and NOBLE EAGLE, but I would challenge you to not get so wrapped up with the details of our supporting missions that we forget those who are in harm's way, facing the issues daily we see as video and sound bites courtesy of CNN or FOX news. I was guilty of this, so involved in my own little world that those images of the military in action seemed unrealistic and far from Sumter.

Let us not forget as we drive home in relative safety and security to our families and the impor-



*Photo by Spc. Jerry T. Combes*

**Airmen assigned to Coalition Task Force 82 carry a casket with the remains of a fallen comrade during a ceremony held at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.**

tant and trivial details of our lives, that there are those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Some deployed from Shaw, some perhaps you may know through your military service. Whether you respond to alarm activations in the middle of the night, pump fuel into an F-16 or work the swing shift at billeting, remember there are Americans around the world who could be fighting for their lives, providing first aid to their buddies or patrolling unfriendly and hostile areas.

I never found out who the two military members were in the caskets. I really don't think I want to know. Their ethnic background, religious preference or skin color doesn't mean a thing to me; I have no business to question a single thing about them. They served with honor and died defending those ideals and beliefs we Americans hold so dear. I would rather hold them in revered memory than research their personal details.

As the anniversary of September 11th has just passed, remember there is a fight still going on. We must be cognizant of the fact there will be more flights from Baghdad in the future, carrying the unfortunate but necessary payment for the bill of our freedoms.

## Enlisted Heritage Banquet honors heroes of today

**By Tech. Sgt. Sharon Henry**  
*20th Medical Support Squadron*

As members of the profession of arms, all enlisted members are sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and to obey the orders of all officers appointed over them. Today, more than ever, it is critical we abide by these words in our fight to win the war on terrorism. As enlisted members of the United States military, we have much to be proud of. We are heroes around the world — helping around the world to provide a ray of hope through humanitarian and peacekeeping operations. The war on terrorism challenged us; it provided

opportunities to truly understand why we wear our uniforms and why we are all heroes. Today's heroes are the cooks who keep our men and women fed, the maintainers who keep the planes flying, the security forces who keep us safe, and the list continues on.

Although I never really thought of myself as a hero, I am a hero to many people all around the world. Recently, I was in my uniform at Walmart when I was approached by an elderly lady. This lady grasped one of my hands and she said with an intense expression, "I just wanted to say, thank you for all you do. I am so proud of you for serving our country." This really brought it all home for me; this stranger truly made me feel like

a hero. Shaw has a long list of heroes who have supported numerous operations during the past year. The 2003 Enlisted Heritage Ball will be a night to remember some of these heroes and their contributions. Join us and the first and eighth Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force as we celebrate "Remembering Heroes of Today."

The Enlisted Heritage Banquet is scheduled for Sept. 26 at the Conference Center (formerly the Club Annex). Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7. Uniform for military is mess dress or semi-formal. For civilians, clothing is coat and tie. Tickets are \$16 for club members, \$18 for nonmembers. Contact a first sergeant to purchase a ticket.